

Umatilla language

Umatilla (Tamalúut) is a variety of Southern *Sahaptin*, part of the *Sahaptian* subfamily of the *Plateau Penutian* group.^[3] It was spoken during late aboriginal times along the Columbia River and is therefore also called Columbia River Sahaptin. It is currently spoken as a first language by a few dozen elders and some adults in the Umatilla Reservation in Oregon. Some sources say that *Umatilla* is derived from *imatilám-hlama*: *hlama* means 'those living at' or 'people of' and there is an ongoing debate about the meaning of *imatilám*, but it is said to be an island in the Columbia River. B. Rigsby and N. Rude mention the village of *ímatalam* that was situated at the mouth of the Umatilla River and where the language was spoken.

The Umatillas pronounce the word *ímatalam*. A Umatilla person is called *imatalamká* (with orthographic ł representing IPA /ɬ/) and the Umatilla people are called *imatalamłáma*. The *Nez Perce* refer to the Umatilla people as *hiyówatalampoo*. See Aoki (1994:171).

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Umatilla	
Pronunciation	/ˌjuːməˈtɪlə/
Native to	United States
Region	Oregon, <div></div> Washington
Ethnicity	Umatilla
Native speakers	25 (2007) ^[1]
Language family	<div>Plateau Penutian <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sahaptian<ul style="list-style-type: none">Sahaptin<ul style="list-style-type: none">Southern<ul style="list-style-type: none">Umatilla</div>
Language codes	
ISO 639-3	uma
Glottolog	umat1237 (http://glottolog.org/resource/lan guoid/id/umat1237) ^[2]

Use and revitalization efforts

As of 2013, there are about 50 first language speakers of Umatilla. The language is taught at the Nixyaawii Community School. "There are six full-time language instructors in CTUIR (*Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation*). Nixyaawii Community School has offered Umatilla, Walla Walla and Nez Perce language classes for the last decade and a Cay-Uma-Wa Head Start program is being developed to reach children while they’re young. There are also online video resources and the Tamaluut immersion school, a new *language immersion* program for three- to five-year-olds."^{[4][5]} The Wíyat'ish Naknúwit "For the Future" Language Project, has trained speakers using a Master-Apprentice program.^[6] A Flash Story Camp has been held by First Nations Development in collaboration with Tamastslíkt's Language Enhancement Program and Education Department, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation.^[7] In 2015, Umatilla instruction will be given at the high school level. There is interest in adapting a curriculum for Umatilla that has been used successfully for *Okanagan Salish* at the Salish School of Spokane.^[8]

The Umatilla Dictionary was published in 2014 with the University of Washington Press. The Dictionary documents the language of the Umatilla people east of the Cascade Mountains in Oregon and Washington. Working for many years with the accumulated scholarship of linguists and anthropologists as well as with elders on the Umatilla Reservation, tribal linguist Noel Rude has painstakingly recorded words, pronunciations, phrases, and other elements of the Umatilla language. The dictionary includes a grammar and comparative information that places the Umatilla language in its linguistic and

historical context and compiles all of its known words, phrases, and constructions. Umatilla Dictionary is an important work for people of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs and adds to the growing linguistic work being done by tribes and scholars on endangered languages.^[9]

Phonology

Rigsby and Rude use a technical alphabet based upon the Americanist phonetic notation to transcribe Umatilla, though other practical orthographies also exist.

Vowels

	front	central	back
high	i, ii	ɨ	u, uu
low		a, aa	

All long vowels are written as clusters of identical short vowels.

- The pronunciation of /a/ ranges from [ɑ] to [ʌ] and it shifts to [a] or [ɛ] when preceded or followed by /y/.
- The pronunciation of /aa/ ranges from [a:] to [ɑ:].
- The pronunciation of /i/ ranges from [ɪ] to [i] and it shifts to [e] near /q q' ɣ/.
- /ii/ has a schwa-like offglide before uvulars and it shifts to [e] after uvulars.
- /ɨ/ is pronounced [ɨ].
- /u/ is pronounced [u] and it shifts to [o] near uvulars.
- /uu/ is pronounced [u:] and it shifts to [o] near uvulars.

Vowels of different quality never appear in clusters. Allowed diphthongs are the following: /ay aay aw aaw iw iiw uy uuy/.

Consonants

	bilabial	dental	dental continuant	lateral	alveopalatal	velar	labiovelar	uvular	labio-uvular	laryngeal
stop & affricate	p	t	ts c	tɬ ʎ	tʃ č	k		q		ʔ ' ʕ
glottalized stop & affricate	p'	t'	ts' c'	tɬ' ʎ'	tʃ' č'	k'	k' w	q'	q' w	
spirant & continuant			s	ɬ ʎ	ʃ š	x	x w	χ ɣ	χ w ɣ w	h
nasal	m	n								
lateral		l								
glide	w		j y							

Consonant clusters are common and show few restrictions. All words begin with a consonant, even though according to orthographic conventions, an initial glottal stop before a vowel is not written and initial unstressed /' ɨ/ is not written before /m n l/ plus a consonant. Initial clusters of up to three consonants are allowed (*pccák* 'pepper'), medials of up to five consonants and finals of up to four consonants (*látɬɬ* 'ashes'). Clusters of identical consonants also occur: *qqápní* 'silly', *ččù* 'quiet'. The laryngeals /h ' / usually occur in initial position and sometimes in intervocalic position.

Syllable structure

As yet, no detailed description of syllable structure in Umatilla Sahaptin has been written.

Stress

Primary stress is distinctive and is indicated by an acute accent. It occurs on one syllable of a word. Stress contrast can be seen in the following examples: *ámapa* 'husband' (objective case) and *amápa* 'island' (locative case); *páq* 'inušana' 'he saw him' and *paq* 'inušana' 'they saw (him)'. Nondistinctive secondary and lesser stresses occur phonetically and are conditioned by phonetic and syntactic environments.

Phonological processes

Alternation in the phonetic shapes of morphemes is frequent and most often vocalic.

Vocalic alternations result from processes (ablaut, epenthesis and truncation) that can be morphologically or phonologically conditioned.

Consonantal alternations arise from two processes: velar stops /k k' / may palatalize to /c č/ and affricates /c č/ become /t/ before /s š/. For instance, /c/ + /š/ becomes /t/ + /š/.

Morphology

The morphological structure of Umatilla and other Sahaptin dialects is synthetic to mildly polysynthetic.

The processes used are clisis, reduplication, ablaut, compounding, suppletion, order and the most common one is affixation (suffixation in particular).

Nouns, adjectives and pronouns inflect for number and case. There are three number categories: singular, dual and plural. The singular is not marked. The dual is marked by the suffix *-in* (with allomorphs *-win*, *-yn* or *-n* depending on the final). There are two main ways to mark the plural: with the suffix *-ma* (*tílaaki-ma* 'women') and by full or partial reduplication (*pšwá* 'stone', *pšwápšwa* 'stones'). These two markers can sometimes co-exist in the same word. Several nouns feature irregular plural marks that might have been more widely used in the past, such as the prefix *a-* and the suffix *-tu*.

Verbs have the most complex morphology of all the parts of speech. Their internal structure is characterized by three major positions:

1) the pronominal prefix

This position is not necessarily occupied, it depends on the aspects of sentence structure external to the verb.

2) the theme

It can be composed of one or several elements. Theme-derivational processes include notions such as the distribution of action and the iteration of action which is expressed by the reduplication of a part of or the totality of the theme (*i-łúp-łúp-ša* 'he keeps on jumping up and down', where *łúp* means 'to jump'). Affixations of adverbial notions also occur: *qá-* 'suddenly', *máy-* 'in the morning', *twá-* 'with the edge of a long object', *tísím-* 'while sitting'.

3) the auxiliary suffix complex

Its inflectional system marks the verbs for:

- mood: indicative (unmarked), conditional and imperative
- aspect: imperfective for an action in process (suffix *-ša*, *-šan*), customary for the usual character of an action (suffix *-xa*, *-xan*)
- tense
- directionality for motion verbs: cislocative suffix *-ím* (motion or activity towards or with respect to speaker), translocative suffix *-kik* (motion away from the speaker).

Syntax

Umatilla, like other varieties of Sahaptin, is characterized by a free word order and a complex case-marking system.

Noun case endings

	Nonhuman	Human		
		Singular	Dual	Plural
Unmarked	k' úsi (horse)	ǰwínš (man)	awínšin	awínšma
<u>Inverse ergative</u>	k' úsinǰm	ǰwínšnǰm	<i>no dual</i>	<i>no plural</i>
<u>Obviative ergative</u>	k' úsiyin	ǰwínšin	<i>no dual</i>	<i>no plural</i>
<u>Objective</u>	k' úsina	ǰwínšna	awínšinaman	awínšmaaman
<u>Comitative</u>	k' úsiyin	ǰwínšin	<i>no dual</i>	<i>no plural</i>
<u>Genitive</u>	k' úsinmí	ǰwínšmí	awínšinamí	awínšmaamí
<u>Benefactive</u>	k' úsiyay	ǰwínšmíyay	awínšinamíyay	awínšmaamíyay
<u>Dative</u>	k' úsiyaw	ǰwínšmíyaw	awínšinamíyaw	awínšmaamíyaw
<u>Allative</u>	k' úsikan	ǰwínšmíkan	awínšinamíkan	awínšmaamíkan
<u>Ablative</u>	k' úsikni	ǰwínšmíkni	awínšinamíkni	awínšmaamíkni
<u>Instrumental</u>	k' úsiki	ǰwínšmíki	awínšinamíki	awínšmaamíki
<u>Locative</u>	k' úsipa	ǰwínšmípa	awínšinamípa	awínšmaamípa

See also

- Sahaptian languages
- Sahaptin people
- Umatilla (tribe)

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